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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1953.

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## COMMENT OF THE DAY

### New Danger

THE Premier of Laos has declared that the military situation created by the latest Vietnamese offensive is "serious but not critical," and American officials in Washington are quoted as being of the opinion that there is a tendency to attach too much importance to Ho Chi-minh's drive in the north. They may be right in their assessment of the military significance of the offensive, but none can dispute the importance of its political implications. It may be taken for granted that Ho Chi-minh has considerable influence in his mind other than obtaining a stronger bargaining position in the event of an armistice consequent on military successes. The political future of the State of Laos is manifestly at stake, and if the Vietnamese do succeed in cutting off Laos from the rest of Indo-China, Thailand will be given cause for a feeling of apprehension. One design behind the current rebel drive may well be to link geographically Northern Laos with the so-called Autonomous Thai Federation which the Peking Government created for the purpose of attempting to unite the Thai-speaking people of Burma, Thailand and Laos. If this could be achieved it is conceivable that the Autonomous Thai Federation would move its present headquarters in Yunnan to Northern Laos, thereby establishing a direct political link with Ho Chi-minh and his associates. Ho today is claiming that the troops taking part in the offensive against the French Union forces are Laotians—obviously a propagandist attempt to persuade the outside world that the drive is a spontaneous domestic uprising. The Vietnamese forces may well include a sprinkling of Laotian dissidents, but the nature of equipment which the rebels are using in their current offensive and their extreme mobility clearly indicates that they are campaigning veterans and troops thoroughly versed in the arts and devices of modern ground warfare. No matter how reassuring officials may endeavour to be, the situation created by the rebel drive is serious, almost grave. None can say whether Ho Chi-minh has limited military objectives, but if he can consolidate his successes to date, he will have achieved significant political gains.

## Arrests Follow Railway Disaster

### Time-Bomb Plot To Obtain \$208,000 Insurance

Mexico City, Dec. 28. A singer, Pacho Sierra, was sentenced to eight years in prison today as the mastermind of a plot to collect US\$208,000 insurance by time-bombing an airliner. Emilio Arciano Scheitge, an ex-convict, was sentenced as an accomplice. Sierra, 42, a well-known burlesque artist, is the husband of Esperanza Iria, Latin America's top musical-comedy star. The prosecution charged that Scheitge planted the bomb in a Mexican Aviation Company DC-3 airliner on September 24, 1952, after taking out life insurance on seven of the 20 passengers for \$208,000. The bomb ripped a seven-foot hole in the cargo compartment, but the pilot, Carlos Rodriguez, landed the plane safely. No one on board was injured.—United Press.

### Mau Mau Issue New Year's Day Threat

Nairobi, Dec. 28. Mau Mau terrorists have threatened a raid in the Nairobi area on New Year's Day. The threat was contained in typewritten letters purporting to be signed by four Mau Mau "generals" which were found in Kijabe trading centre, 60 miles from Nairobi, after a raid by 100 terrorists there on Christmas night.

The letters also said the Mau Mau had five well-trained and fully-armed "battalions" in the Mount Elgon area on the border of Uganda. These new "sons of the kikuyu" needed provisions and money, the letters said. Christmas night's raid at Kijabe followed closely on the Christmas Eve battle north of Nairobi between a trapped Mau Mau gang and troops and police in which Earl Weyell, 37-year-old Major in the First Battalion of the Black Watch Regiment, was killed. The tolling of a mission bell three miles away probably saved the lives of the six Asians at the Kijabe trading centre. Warning peals cut short the desperate attack by an estimated 100 Mau Mau gangsters against a row of shops and sent police patrols rushing to the scene. The raiders swooped on the village from thick forests ten miles away and began firing sten guns, rifles and pistols. Some of the terrorists wore police uniforms and peaked caps with metal crowns as badges. Two Indian shops became a shambles with damage estimated at nearly £3,000. One shopkeeper telephoned a police post at a nearby mission, and then the warning peal of the mission bells cut the raid short. The attack followed the arrest of 23 Mau Mau suspects who had been detained in a screening camp near the village until Christmas morning, when they were transferred to

Naiyasha, about 20 miles north of Kijabe. Last week, 53 Mau Mau terrorists were killed and 40 were taken prisoner. Ten members of the security forces were killed, including two Europeans, and 28 injured. Fifteen loyal Africans were also killed and six injured.—Reuter.

### Attempt To Enlarge PO Strike

Paris, Dec. 28. The trade unions responsible for the strike of key post office workers which disorganised France's Christmas mail, tonight sought to bring out all post office workers. They called on "post office workers in all services to intensify their actions to the maximum and multiply work stoppages everywhere" in support of wage and bonus claims. The Communist-led Independent unions also called a general meeting of post office workers for Tuesday afternoon. The Catholic and Force Ouvriere (anti-Communist) unions are not striking. Earlier today, the key postal workers at Paris railway stations who have been out for six days decided to carry on their stoppage indefinitely. Meanwhile air security men went back to work today after a nine-day stoppage. French airports are open to traffic again, and international airlines whose services have been crippled since December 10, are rapidly restoring normal services. The airport control and communications workers decided to call off their strike after receiving temporary increases of 3,000 pending further negotiations.—Reuter.

## STOP PRESS

### DAVIS CUP LATEST

Melbourne, Dec. 29. Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas, representing the United States, won the first two sets against the Australians, Lewis Hoad and Rex Hartwig, by 6-2, 6-4 in the doubles of the Davis Cup Challenge Round today. Hartwig was selected at the last moment to replace Ken Rosewall, who lost his singles yesterday against Tony Trabert.—Reuter.

## CZECH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION

Vienna, Dec. 28. Prague Radio said tonight that "a number of arrests" had been made following the Christmas Eve train smash at Sakvice, Czechoslovakia, in which 103 people were killed.

The Czech Ministry of the Interior said the accident was caused by "serious negligence" on the part of railway workers, the Radio stated.

An official announcement at the time of the crash said an express from Prague to Bratislava ran into a passenger train at Sakvice station.

No casualty details were then given apart from a statement that there was "considerable loss of life."

High Government officials, including the Deputy Ministers of Transport and the Interior, went to the scene of the disaster on Christmas Eve.

Today's announcement said: "With deep sorrow, the Government received the news of the railway disaster which occurred to an express train on Thursday between Brno and Brslau with the loss of 103 lives. Eighty-three people were injured, some of them seriously."

In the crash, a number of railway carriages were destroyed and the locomotive was damaged.

Employees of the Ministry of the Interior and members of the armed forces, the medical services and the public took part in the rescue operations. "All the injured received immediate first aid."

"The bodies of all the victims were sent to their homes and the Government has ordered the local national councils to provide for the funerals."

"Preliminary inquiries have shown that the accident was caused through very serious negligence on the part of some railway employees."

"Inquiries are still continuing. The railway track was cleared by the evening of the same day."

The Interior Ministry announcement added that special pensions and allowances would be paid to the relatives of the dead and injured.—Reuter.

## GOVT BANS DELEGATES

London, Dec. 28. The British Government today banned the entry of all foreign delegates to a teachers' conference for peace which opens here on Tuesday.

Four have already been turned back—two from West Germany and two from France.

Invitations to the conference were sent to individuals and organisations all over the world, including Russia, China and several countries behind the Iron Curtain.

A Home Office spokesman refused to say why delegates would not be allowed to enter the country.

"We never do in cases of this kind," he added.

The ban drew protests from the conference organisers and a spokesman denied it was Communist inspired.

"We are not affiliated to any political party although we are not afraid to work with any people or organisations which we believe have the same aims as ourselves," he said.—Reuter.

## Rescuers Nearly Cheated By Gale

New York, Dec. 28. The 43 crew members of the broken Swedish freighter Oklahoma escaped almost certain death when a furious gale blew up in the North Atlantic shortly after the last survivor was picked up from a life boat, it was disclosed today.

The Military Sea Transportation Service received a radio message from the skipper of one of the rescue vessels which said: "We were fortunate in reaching the survivors as a full gale blew up six hours after the last survivor was safely on board."

Captain J. Larson told how the sinking vessel was located by the teamwork of the US naval ship Blue Jacket, which he commands, and a British vessel, the Llarra.

Captain Larson commended two of his officers for locating the Oklahoma by means of radio "triangulation" at a time when the ship's radar was not workable because of heavy seas.

### HOW IT WAS DONE

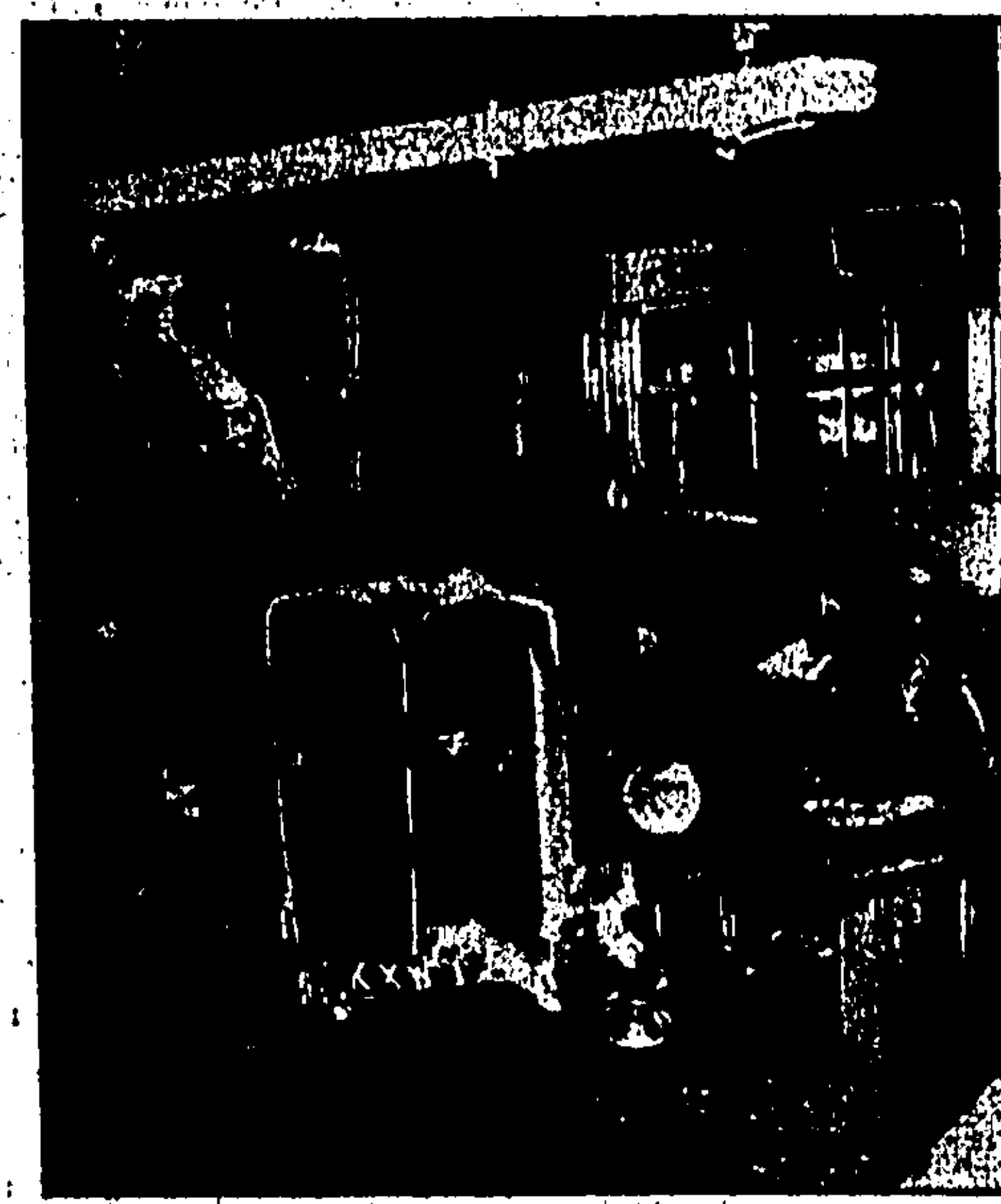
The Blue Jacket's message explained how the "triangulation" worked. The rescue vessel, which knew its own position, radioed the nearby Llarra and asked its position.

Using the two fixed locations as points on a chart, the Blue Jacket's officers then drew lines from the points corresponding to the directions from which the Oklahoma's distress signals were reaching the two ships. The intersection of these two lines represented the Oklahoma's "fix"—its position.

The Blue Jacket and the Finnish freighter Orlo, which also participated in the rescue, were ploughing through heavy seas en route to Scandinavia with the survivors.

The Oklahoma's entire crew, including one woman, was rescued by the two vessels 800 miles northeast of Argentina, Newfoundland. The 8,914-ton vessel broke in two late Saturday.—United Press.

## Fatal Bus Accident



At Hyde Park Corner, London, recently a bus crashed into a bus shelter. Two people were killed and many hurt. The shelter collapsed and fell on people waiting there as the bus ploughed through it. This picture, taken after the accident, shows the wrecked front of the bus.—London Express photo.

## Disastrous Forest Fires

Los Angeles, Dec. 28. Two major forest fires, fanned by 80-mph winds, raged out of control over 12,000 acres in Los Angeles National Forest today. A heavy cloud of smoke hung over the area.

The fires caused the evacuation of more than 2,000 persons from their homes and destroyed 150 dwellings, chiefly summer homes.

The winds swept ashes many miles ahead of the flames, showering nearby Pasadena, Altadena, San Marino and some parts of Los Angeles, more than 20 miles from the nearest fire.

More than 1,000 men and hundreds of pieces of equipment were thrown into the fight against the flames. The larger of the two separate fires was that above Monrovia in the San Gabriel range of mountains. That fire was near the town of Sierra Madre, nestling in the foothills above Pasadena.

### NARROW ESCAPE

The flames crept to within a few hundred yards of a heavily-populated area in Sierra Madre Canyon.

The other fire was about 15 miles away in the Mount Baldy region, north of Claremont, and Pomona; citrus communities near the San Bernardino County line.

The wind also blew down power lines to the city of Upland and the flames swept through heavy timber in the San Dimas experimental forest.

The Mount Wilson Observatory was within a mile of the fire line. Millions of dollars' worth of scientific equipment, as well as the observatory's 100-inch telescope, are housed in the metal dome, a famous landmark.—United Press.

## Joliffe Sentenced

Manila, Dec. 29. William Ernest Joliffe, 37, China-born Canadian citizen, was today sentenced to one year imprisonment and a US\$1,000 fine for attempting to smuggle 15 kilos of gold bullion out of the Philippines on December 7.

Immediately after the sentence was meted out by Judge Glenvenide Tan of the First Court of First Instance in Manila, Joliffe filed an appeal and was immediately released on a US\$1,000 bail and allowed to go back to Hongkong pending his appeal.

The gold, worth slightly less than US\$18,000, was discovered tied round Joliffe's waist by customs agents as he prepared to board a plane for Hongkong. Joliffe was former commercial secretary of the Canadian embassy in Shanghai, and was later Canadian Trade Commissioner in Hongkong till 1948, when he resigned. He took up residence in Hongkong where his business is located.

During the trial, Joliffe claimed that the gold bullion represented the payment of a debt by a Manila Chinese businessman, who "ill now could not be located."

Contacted by an AFP reporter immediately after the sentence, Joliffe said he would avail himself of the authorisation of Judge Tan allowing him to return to Hongkong pending his appeal. (Contd. on Back Page, Col. 3)

## Fire Victims Relief Fund

The total amount of donations to the S.C.M. Post, Ltd., Shumshulpo Fire Victims Relief Fund rose to \$109,685 this morning, an additional \$30,000 to the overnight total. Donors sending contributions by cheque are reminded that these should be crossed and made out to "The Shumshulpo Fire Victims Relief Fund."

### TODAY'S DONATIONS

H. T. Kung	\$ 20.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.	2,500.00
Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Stanton	250.00
St. Patrick's Society of Hongkong	500.00
Drs. To & Armstrong	200.00
Mr. Yeung Wing Hong's Birthday Party	2,668.40
Royal Intercean Lines	6,000.00
J. Blaker	1,000.00
Hongkong Telephone Co., Ltd.	10,000.00
I. Prentice	100.00
Thoresen & Co., Ltd.	1,000.00
Thomas & Co. Kuen	300.00
J. G. Horn	100.00
Carmichael & Clarke	250.00
Mr. Mrs. & Miss. Ridenhail	200.00
Butterfield & Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.	2,500.00
G. W. S.	500.00
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Mr. & Mrs. G. O. W.	100.00
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Miss Anita Lee	100.00
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Miss E. Allen	20.00
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B. Fletcher	100.00
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Wong Mui	5.00
Miss Kelly	11.00
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J. & C. H.	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Mitchell	100.00
C. Holdsworth	20.00
Y. C.	50.00
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India Emporium	100.00
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Mrs. B. Marghammal	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Gregory	100.00

(Contd. on Back Page, Col. 3)

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## Luck Made Him A Generous Santa Claus

Santiago, Dec. 28. Spanish-born Pablo Martinez-Laya was hailed today as Chile's "not this world's" biggest Santa Claus after he gave his relatives and friends Christmas presents worth \$700,000 while getting a \$500,000 present himself. Martinez-Laya came to Santiago from Coquimbo, Chile, where he is in the shoe business, to buy his Christmas presents and had the idea that to buy a whole Christmas lottery ticket for \$70 and divide it among his family and friends would be a quite and inexpensive way of doing his shopping.

The ticket with first prize of \$1,000,000, Martinez-Laya's brother and business partner, Jose, received sixteenth prize of \$300,000. Two daughters got \$80,000 each; a cousin, had \$150,000 and a friend another \$150,000. Martinez-Laya received sixteenth prize of the \$1,000,000, Martinez-Laya's brother, for himself, getting \$300,000.—United Press.

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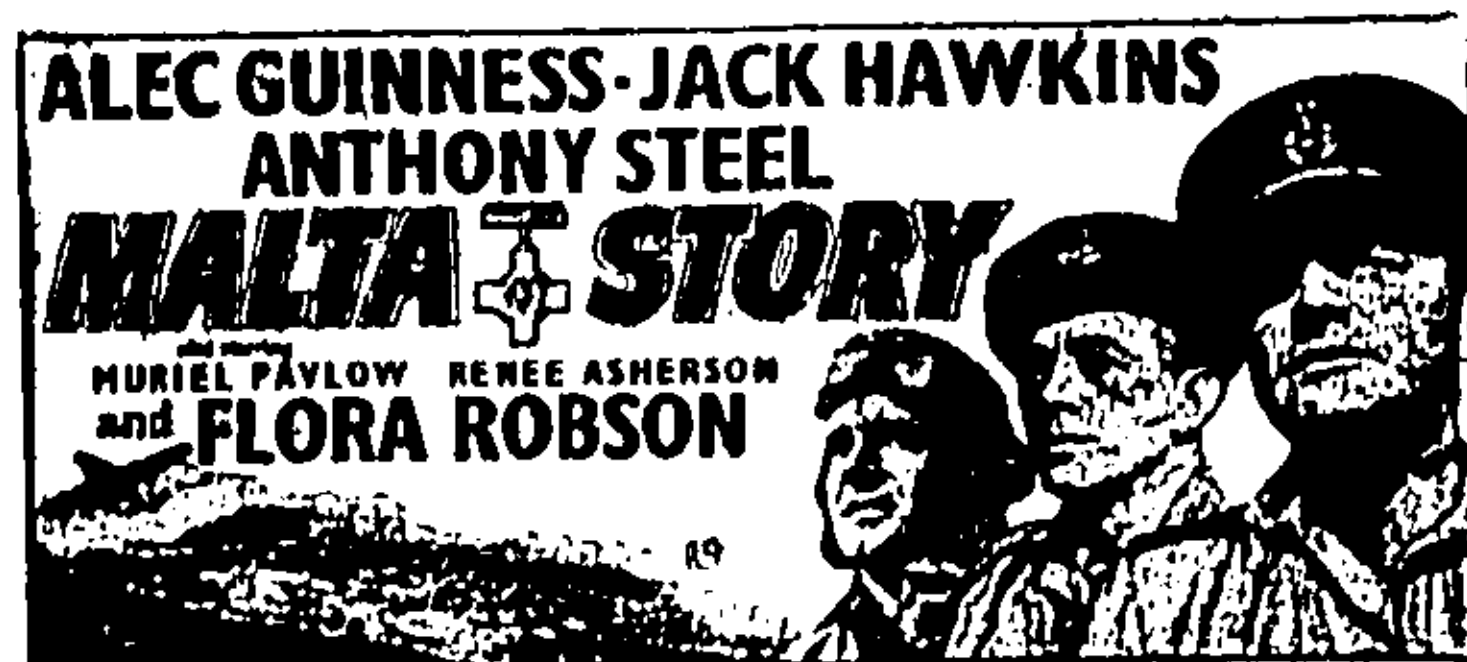
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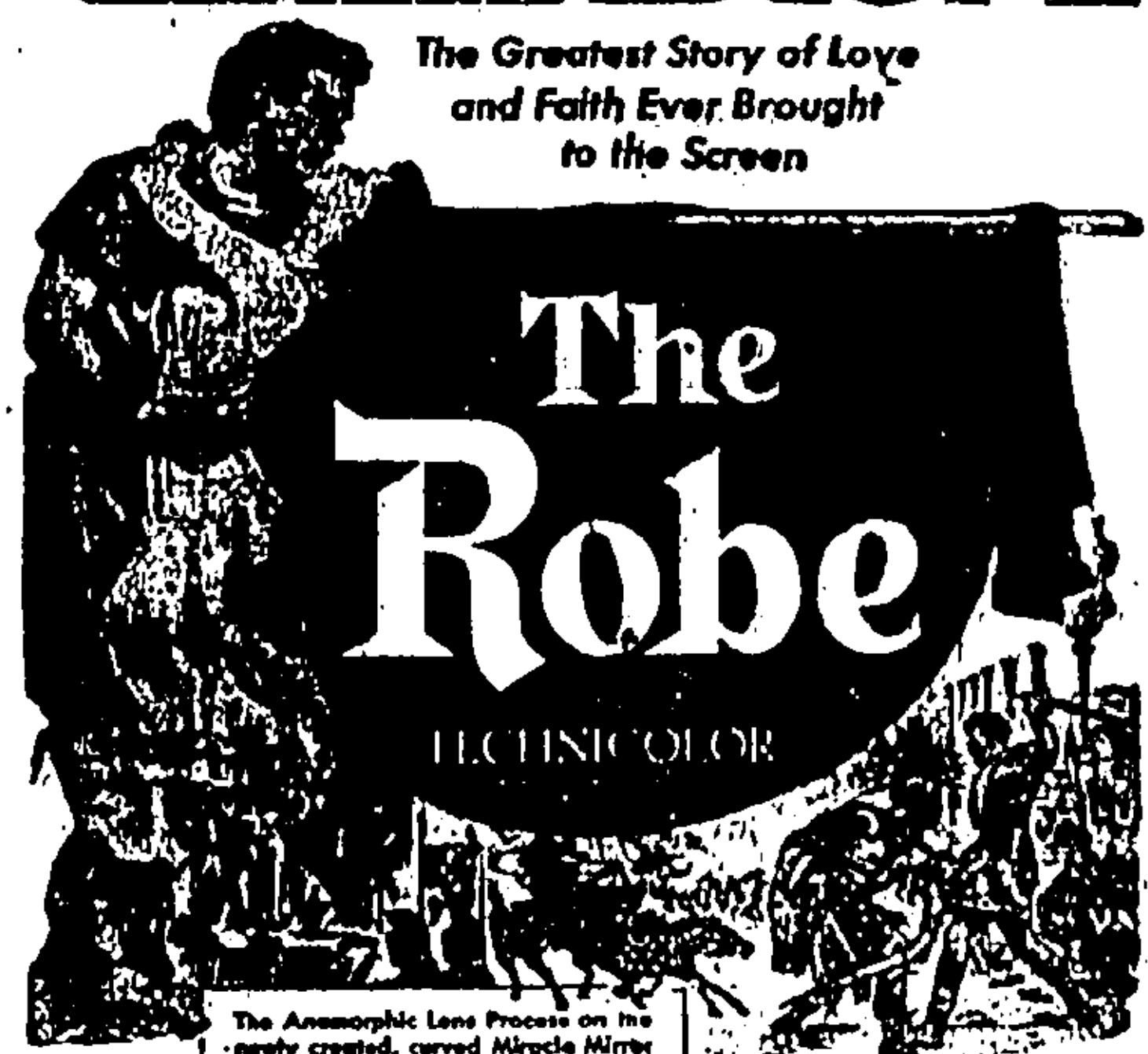
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COMING SOON!



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEING GROOMED FOR INTEGRATION WITH USSR

Vienna, Dec. 28.

Reports reaching here indicate that Czechoslovakia is being groomed, politically and economically, for eventual incorporation in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Already, the Czechoslovak Constitution has been remodelled on Soviet lines, and the Czechoslovak Communist Party has new statutes almost identical with those of the Russian party.

The army has senior Soviet officers in charge of its training and organisation, and wears the same type of uniform, uses the same weapons, drill and even words of command as the Red Army.

The schools are using more and more translations of Soviet text books. More and more Soviet films, in their original language with Czech or Slovak subtitles, are being shown.

Now, the co-ordination of the economic life of the country with that of the Soviet Union is being speeded up.

The indications are that the date set for the completion of the process is 1956. For, although Czechoslovakia's current 5-year plan ends on December 31, 1953, there is to be no new 5-year

plan until 1956, the year when the Soviet Union's next 5-year plan is due to start.

How closely Czechoslovakia is already linked with the Soviet Union is shown by foreign trade figures.

While Czechoslovak imports from the Soviet Union were not more than 8.8 per cent of her total imports in 1947, they had already reached 30.4 per cent in 1952. Similarly, Czechoslovakia's exports to the Soviet Union increased from 4.9 per cent in 1947 to 31 per cent in 1952.

### TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.

Before the war, Czechoslovak trade was mainly with the West. Today, the Soviet Union and the other People's Democracies account for over 70 per cent of Czechoslovakia's foreign trade.

On Soviet orders, a great part of Czechoslovakia's industry was set to produce heavy metal goods for Russian use. This led to the rapid development of Czechoslovak heavy industries at the expense of her light industries and agriculture.

Now, measures have had to be taken to lessen the pressure on the hated "kulaks" (independent farmers) in order to encourage them to produce more food. For Czechoslovakia has had to import huge quantities of grain from the Soviet Union, thus binding her economically still more closely to her great neighbour in the East.

Dr Jaroslav Dolansky, first deputy Prime Minister and Chief of Planning in Czechoslovakia, said recently that the Czechoslovakia would like to be able to buy their foodstuffs from the West and to renew some of their trade relations with the Western powers.

Unfortunately, he added, owing to coal shortages in Czechoslovakia which was limiting production, they were unable to fulfill many of their trade obligations.

### CUT OFF FROM WEST

All reports reaching here indicate that the truth is, although Mr Dolansky did not mention it, that the concentration on the heavy industries has left the production of consumer goods, formerly Czechoslovakia's chief articles of trade, inadequate even for home consumption.

Further, since Soviet Russia takes all Czechoslovakia's heavy industrial products and clamours for more, none of these are available for export to the West.

As to coal, which used also to be an important export of the West, production has fallen so low that it is now 1,000,000 tons below the target set in the 5-year plan.

Thus, whether she likes it or not, Czechoslovakia is forced to continue to increase her economic bonds with her Eastern neighbours and to remain cut off from her former trading partners in the West.

The co-ordination of Czechoslovakia's economic life with that of the Soviet Union has been carried a step further, too, by the appointment of Soviet "advisers" to many Czechoslovak industries.

Czech brewers, for centuries world famous for their beer, were sent to learn brewing in the Soviet Union. Similarly, a certain Mr K. M. Sudakov from Russia was detailed as an adviser to the Czechoslovak beer sugar industry.

### EVEN ACCOUNTS

The same thing is happening throughout the Czechoslovak economy.

The factories once famous throughout the world for their high class products now have to produce according to Soviet methods. Czech mines use Soviet machines. Books have to be kept according to Soviet accounting systems.

Another important measure for the coordination of the two economies is the reduction of the formerly very high standard

of living of the Czechoslovak workers.

There is to be eventual unification of the two economies, and because it is impossible so quickly to bring the standard of living of the workers in the Soviet Union up to the pre-war standard of Czechoslovak workers, the only solution is to reduce that of the latter.

This has been done by means of a currency reform, which took away all the workers' savings, and price manipulations which have left the comparative cost of most goods two to three times as high as they were before the reform.

Finally, in preparation for speeding up the physical union of the two economies, the Czechoslovak railway system, which was formerly wholly directed towards the West, has been changed.

Many railway lines leading to the West have been taken up or abandoned. New lines have been, and are being, built by "Friendship Brigades" towards the East. The new line from Prague via Kasechau to the Soviet frontier, for example, will be completed shortly.—China Mail Special.

## U.S. To Increase Broadcasts In Far East

Washington, Dec. 28. The United States Information Agency plans to intensify its operations in South-East Asia by increasing broadcasts, pamphlets and posters, it was announced today.

Mr Theodore Streibert, Director of the Agency, said Voice of America broadcasts from American relay stations in Okinawa and Manila would be increased to 12 hours daily, with a substantial increase in the number of American pamphlets, posters and book translations.

Mr Streibert, who returned last week from a month's tour of the Information Agency's major Far East outposts in Japan, Indo-China, Korea, Hongkong and the Philippines, said that to step up activities in South-East Asia it would be necessary to cut back operations in other Far East countries.

Voice of America broadcasts were now telling Far East listeners that the Indo-Chinese Communist invasion of the Kingdom of Laos clearly exposed Communist desires to control neighbouring countries, Mr Streibert said.

The Communist attack, which had cut Indo-China in two, showed the duplicity behind recent Vietnamese Communist peace feelers, broadcast commentaries said. The sudden invasion of Laos was another example of unprovoked Communist aggression.

Mr Streibert said that as a result of conferences in Formosa, the Information Agency would work closely with the Chinese Nationalist Government to try to build up additional support for Chiang Kai-shek's Government among Chinese populations in other Far East countries.—Reuter.

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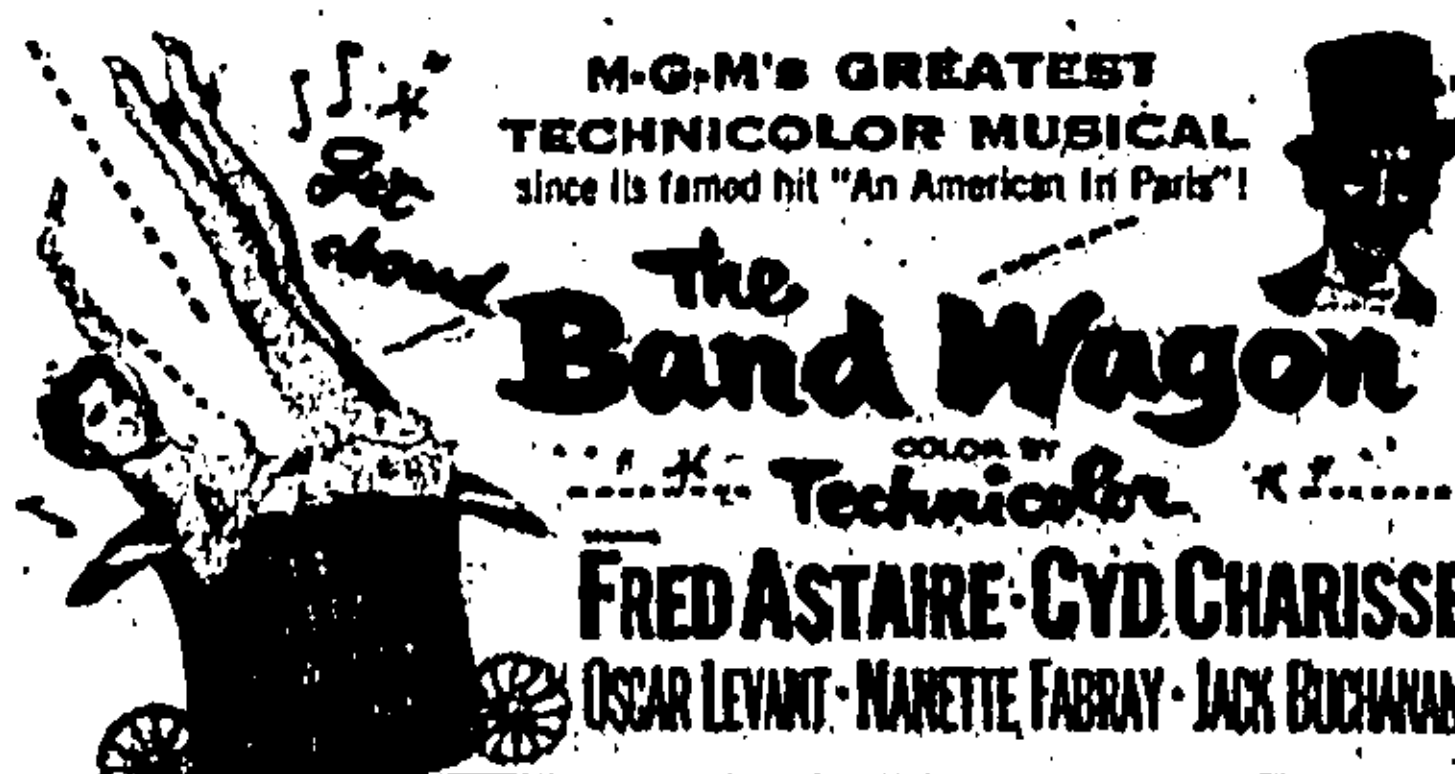
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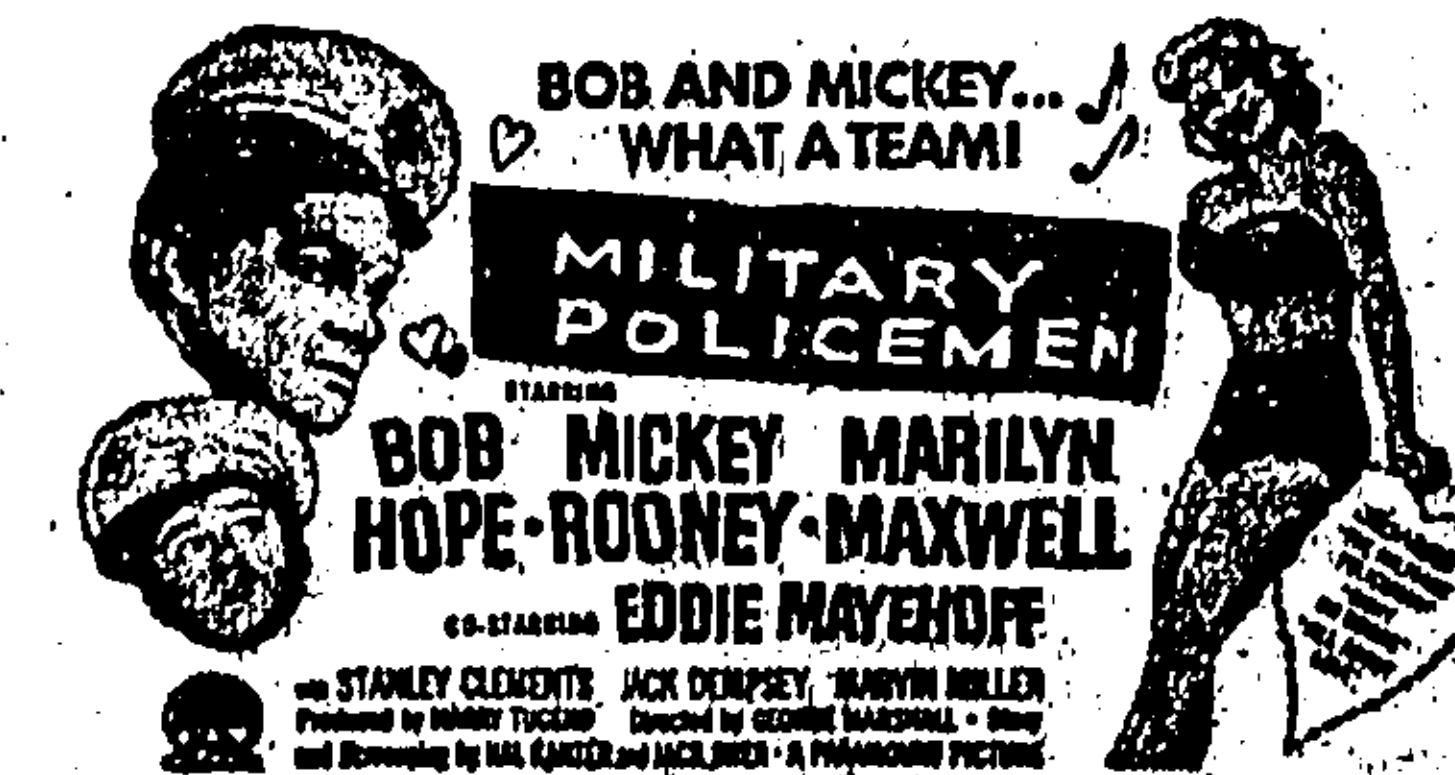
— NEXT CHANGE —



## EMPIRE PRINCESS

TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



★ NEXT CHANGE ★  
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JAYCEE PARTY FOR CHILDREN  
Y.W.C.A. ANNUAL DANCE  
CAROL CONCERT AT H.K. UNIVERSITY  
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## COLOUR BAR FLARE-UP

By YORKE HENDERSON

A QUESTION in the House of Commons has sparked off once again the whole business of the colour bar and London hotels.

Newspapers here have front-paged the story.

The chairman of one West End hotel—named by a Labour questioner in the Commons—has been moved to state that his establishment puts up the colour bar in deference to the wishes of its regular clientele.

And the Minister of Food has had to admit that—much as he deplores racial discrimination—the common law of Britain does not allow him to take sanctions against the operators of colour-bar hotels and restaurants by withdrawing their catering licences.

### Rather A Pity

The whole affair bore all the hallmarks of similar periodic flare-ups in the past; an incident or series of incidents—this time the colour bar stories that followed the Queen's visit to Bermuda—providing the spark; followed by the chain reaction of letters to the press, newspaper leaders, pious and practical, and a question in the House.

It looked, too, as if the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, was playing right into the hands of the "crusaders" when he admitted that the colour bar had to stay in certain Bermuda hotels because of the dollar tourist trade.

But it's rather a pity that Mr. Lyttelton could not intervene when his colleague, the Food Minister, was asked whether he could take action against colour bar establishments.

If he had, he could have told the critics that his Ministry wages a constant war against colour-conscious hotel-keepers.

He could have explained, perhaps, that every time an instance of colour discrimination—so far as accommodation—booking is concerned—is brought to the notice of the appropriate officials in the Colonial Office, action follows, swift and stern.

### Wooden Sword?

Like the Food Minister, the Colonial Office can take no legal action. But it can express its formal disapproval and protest against the discrimination.

Maybe that sounds like waving a wooden sword. It is not.

The Colonial Office provides a lot of custom for the better hotels in central London. Most times colonial delegations arrive in Britain—and in recent months the traffic in this direction has been heavy—the accommodation booking is left to the Colonial Office.

So it is easy to see that if any hotel earns the disapproval of the Ministry it stands to lose much valuable custom; especially as many Colonial Office guests

are big enough names to constitute a good advertisement on any hotel's register.

Nor does the Colonial Office take action only when the glare of publicity is turned on a particular incident. The campaign to break down the colour bar goes on all the time.

It is effective, too. For some hotels, which in the past were rigorous colour-bar operators, have quietly but drastically changed their tune.

Strong pockets of resistance, nevertheless, continue to cling to their whites-only policy. The excuse they make is the hotel mentioned in Parliament is that they are bowing to the wishes of regular clients.

The final solution, therefore, lies—as the Minister of Food suggested in the Commons—with public opinion. Only when the public who keep hotels in business make it plain that race discrimination is odious to them will the walls of the last remaining colour-bar strongholds crumble.



"Ah, messieurs, it would have been so much simpler if you'd been asked to vote for HER instead of THEM."

London Express Service

## Chapter 37 of Sir Winston Churchill's "Triumph And Tragedy"

# THE ATOMIC BOMB AND JAPAN'S COLLAPSE

On July 17, 1945, during the Potsdam Conference, the Prime Minister was shown by the U.S. War Secretary, Mr. Stimson, a message which read "Babies satisfactorily born." This meant that the atomic bomb trial in the Mexican desert had succeeded. The next day the Prime Minister was given a full report.

THE President invited me to confer with him forthwith. He had with him Gen. Marshall and Admiral Leahy. Up to this moment we had shaped our ideas towards an assault upon the homeland of Japan by terrific air bombing and by the invasion of very large armies.

We had contemplated the desperate resistance of the Japanese fighting to the death with Samurai devotion, not only in pitched battles, but in every cave and dug-out. I had in my mind the spectacle of Okinawa island, where many thousands of Japanese, rather than surrender, had drawn up in line and destroyed themselves by hand grenades after their leaders had solemnly performed the rite of hara-kiri.

To quell the Japanese resistance man by man and conquer the country yard by yard might well require the loss of one million American lives and half that number of British—or more if we could get them there; for we were resolved to share the agony. Now all this nightmare picture had vanished. In its place was the vision—fair and bright indeed it seemed—of the end of the whole war in one or two violent shocks.

I thought immediately myself of how the Japanese people, whose courage I had always admired, might find in the apparition of this almost supernatural weapon an excuse which would save their honour and release them from their obligation of being killed to the last fighting man.

Moreover, we should not need the Russian. The end of the Japanese war no longer depended upon the pouring in of their armies for the final and perhaps protracted slaughter. We had by now a new weapon of our own. I had been told that Mr. Stimson would clear that the United States had used the atomic bomb on Japan.

The array of European problems could therefore be faced on their merits and according to the broad principles of the United Nations. We seemed suddenly to have become possessed of a merciful abridgement of the slaughter in the East and of a far happier prospect in Europe. I have no doubt that these thoughts were present in the minds of my American friends. At any rate, there never was a moment's discussion as to whether the atomic bomb should be used or not.

To avert a vast, indefinite butchery, to bring the war to an end, to give peace to the world, to lay healing hands upon its tortured peoples by a manifestation of overwhelming power at the cost of a few pleasurable scenes, after all our toil and perils, a miracle of deliverance.

BRITISH consent in principle to the use of the weapon had been given on July 4, before the test had taken place. The final decision now lay in the main with President Truman, who had the weapon, but I never doubted what it would be, nor have I ever doubted since that he was right.

The historic fact remains, and must be judged in the after-time, that the decision whether or not to use the atomic bomb to compel the surrender of Japan was never even an issue. There was unanimous, automatic, unquestioned agreement around our table, nor did I ever hear the slightest suggestion that we should do otherwise.

It appeared that the American Air Force had prepared an immense assault by ordinary air-bombing on Japanese cities and harbours. These could certainly have been destroyed in a few weeks or a few months, and so one could say with what very heavy loss of life to the civilian population. But now, by using this new agency, we might not merely destroy cities, but save the lives alike of friend and foe.

A MORE intricate question was what to tell Stalin. The President and I no longer felt that we needed his aid to conquer Japan. His word had been given at Tehran and Yalta that Soviet Russia would attack Japan as soon as the German Army was defeated, and in fulfilment of this a continuous movement of Russian troops to the Far East had been in progress since the beginning of May.

In our opinion they were not likely to be needed, and Stalin's bargaining power, which he had used with such effect upon the Americans at Yalta, was therefore gone. Still, he had been a magnificent ally in the war against Hitler, and we both felt that he must be informed of the great new fact which now dominated the scene, but not of any particulars.

How should this news be imparted to him? Should it be by word of mouth? Should it be by a formal and special message? In the course of our daily conferences, or after one of them, I had been told that Mr. Stimson would clear that the United States had used the atomic bomb on Japan.

after one of our meetings that we have an entirely novel form of bomb, something quite out of the ordinary, which we think will have decisive effects upon the Japanese will to continue the war. I agreed to this procedure. The following is a note which I made for the Cabinet at the time:

18 July, 45. The President showed me telegrams about the recent experiment, and asked what I thought should be done about telling the Russians. He seemed determined to do this, but asked about the timing, and said he thought that the end of the Conference would be best.

I replied that if he were resolved to tell it might well be better to hang it on the experiment, which was a new fact on which he and we had only just had knowledge. Therefore he would have a good answer to any question. "Why did you not tell us this before?" He seemed impressed with this idea, and will consider it.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government I did not resist his proposed disclosure of the simple fact that we have this weapon. He reiterated his resolve at all costs to refuse to divulge any particulars.

MEANWHILE the devastating attack on Japan had continued from the air and the sea. Among the principal targets were the remnants of the Japanese Fleet, now dispersed for shelter in the inland sea. One by one the big ships were picked out, and by the end of July the Japanese Navy had virtually ceased to exist.

The homeland was in chaos and on the verge of collapse. The professional diplomats were convinced that only immediate surrender under the authority of the Emperor could save Japan from complete disintegration, but power lay almost entirely in the hands of a military clique determined to commit the nation to mass suicide rather than accept defeat. The appalling destruction confronting them made no impression on this cantankerous hierarchy, who continued to profess belief in some miracle which would turn the scale in their favour.

In several lengthy talks with the President alone, or with his advisers present, I discussed what to do. Earlier in the week Stalin had told me privately that as his party was leaving Moscow an unaddressed message had been delivered to him through the Japanese Ambassador. It was presumably meant for either himself or President Roosevelt, or other members of the Soviet Government, and was from the Japanese Emperor.

It stated that Japan could not accept "unconditional surrender" and might be prepared to compromise on other terms. Stalin had replied that as the message contained no definite proposals the Soviet Government could take no action on it. He said that the Japanese Emperor had been told that the Soviet Government would accept no terms that would not be acceptable to the United States.

In the same way I thought we should abstain from saying anything which would make it seem at all reluctant to go on with the war against Japan, for as long as the United States thought fit. However, I dwell upon the tremendous cost in American and to a smaller extent in British life if we enforced "unconditional surrender" upon the Japanese.

IT was for him to consider whether this might not be expressed in some other way, so that we got all the essentials for future peace and security and yet left them some show of saving their military honour and some assurance of their national existence, after they had complied with all the safeguards necessary for the conqueror. The President replied bluntly that he did not think the Japanese had any military honour after Pearl Harbor.

I contented myself with saying that at any rate they had something for which they were ready to face certain death in very large numbers, and this might not be so important to us as it was to them. He then became quite sympathetic, and spoke, as had Mr. Stimson, of the terrible responsibilities that rested upon him for the unlimited effusion of American blood.

I felt there would be no rigid insistence upon "unconditional surrender," apart from what was necessary for world peace and future security and for the punishment of a guilty and treacherous deed. Mr. Stimson, Gen. Marshall, and the President were evidently searching their hearts, and we had no need to press them. We knew of course that the Japanese were ready to give up all conquests made in the war.

Eventually it was decided to end an ultimatum calling for an immediate unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Japan. This document was published on July 26.

THESE terms were rejected by the military rulers of Japan, and the United States Air Force made its plan accordingly to cast one atomic bomb on Hiroshima and one on Nagasaki. We agreed to give every chance to the inhabitants. The procedure was developed in detail. In order to minimise the loss of life 11 Japanese cities were warned by leaflets on July 27 that they would be subjected to intensive air bombardment. Next day six of them were attacked.

Twelve more were warned on July 31, and four were bombed on Aug. 1. The last warning was to have dropped 14 million leaflets every day and three million copies of the ultimatum. The first atomic bomb was the last of the ultimatum. On Aug. 6, the closing scenes of the war against Japan took place. After 7 left bombs and 1 record our striking a blow.

On Aug. 9, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The Japanese Government had been told that the Soviet Government would accept no terms that would not be acceptable to the United States.

accept the ultimatum, provided this did not prejudice the prerogative of the Emperor as a sovereign ruler.

The Allied Governments, including France, replied that the Emperor would be subject to the Supreme Command of the Allied Powers, that he should authorize and ensure the signature of the surrender, and that the armed forces of the Allies would remain in Japan until the purposes set forth at Potsdam had been achieved. These terms were accepted on Aug. 14, and Mr. Attlee broadcast the news at midnight.

The Allied fleets entered Tokyo Bay, and on the morning of Sept. 2 the formal instrument of surrender was signed on board the United States battleship Missouri. Russia had declared war on Aug. 8, only a week before the enemy's collapse. None the less she claimed her full rights as a belligerent.

We could brook no delay in enforcing the capitulation. Malaysia, Hongkong, and the greater part of the Dutch East Indies still remained in enemy hands, and elsewhere there were isolated forces who might ignore the Emperor's command and fight on. The occupation of these vast territories was thus a matter of urgency.

After his Burma campaign Mountbatten had been preparing to liberate Malaysia, and everything was in train for a landing near Port Swettenham. This took place on Sept. 9. Other ports were occupied early in September, without fighting, and on Sept. 12 Mountbatten held a surrender ceremony at Singapore. A British officer, Admiral Harcourt, reached Hongkong on Aug. 30, and accepted the formal surrender of the island on Sept. 10.

THERE were some in America who believed that Japan's downfall could have been achieved more economically by a greater use of air power from bases in China and possibly Siberia. They maintained that her sea communications could have been severed and her power of resistance in the home islands destroyed just as effectively by air action alone, without a long and costly approach by sea as a prelude to invasion.

The more advanced exponents of air power maintained that political objectives elsewhere, in Burma, Malaysia, and the East Indies might have been renounced for the time being and could have been achieved without fighting on the air battle had been won. The American Chiefs of Staff had rejected these ideas.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the fate of Japan was settled by the atomic bomb. Her defeat was certain before the first bomb fell, and was brought about by overwhelming wartime power. This alone had made it possible to seize ocean bases from which to launch the final attack and force her metro-













## SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

# Conception Is Expected To Show A Big Improvement

By JAMES PARK

The mare Faerie Lore has produced some fine stock. Among others, she is the dam of Pretence, Ballet, Mountain King and Arabian Night—all well-grown animals of excellent substance.

Mountain King is the best and, while he did not quite scale the heights as a three-year-old, he might have been third in the St Leger but for losing ground at the start. He was recently sold to go abroad.

His younger half-brother, Arabian Night, has much to commend him in appearance, but it was a little disappointing

to find him wearing bandages on his forelegs when running at Ascot in October.

It may have been something in that connection which kept him in the background from June. He was then second to Hydrologist at the Royal Ascot meeting, and, as in his earlier races, he was putting in his best work towards the end.

## SOME ABILITY

Arabian Night did manage to win a race at Hurst Park but always gave the impression that he would not gain strength proportionate to his generous frame until his second season.

On what the colt has accomplished he is no better than a second-rater, but his mark of 82.5 lb. in the Free Handicap is of some ability. I shall not be surprised if he makes more than normal progress between the ages of two and three, and a mile and a half should be well within his compass.

Garde Royale is rated the equal of Arabian Night and here again we have one who might leave two-year-old running behind in his second season. Garde Royale is a son of Royal Charger, whom Jack Jarvis also trained. They are not the same type, though each is a chestnut.

Garde Royale is taller and stands over more ground than did his sire.

We are apt to think of Royal Charger as one of the speedy type. Yet it took him some time to develop. In fact, he did not win as a two-year-old and it was only seasons later that he gave his best performances. Garde Royale is one up on his sire in that the former lost the maiden certificate as a two-year-old. He did not have a lot to do that day.

## WANTS TIME

Whenever the colt met good class rivals he could not get the pace in the early stages. He wants time to find the length of his stride. That sort usually come into their own when racing over journeys which do not call for a display of initial speed.

When at full stretch Garde Royale covers a tremendous amount of ground, but does not seem to be able to quicken in his stride. He should finish into a grand big three-year-old, and race at a mile or over will give him the scope he requires. I have always thought he will make a relatively better three-year-old.

That can be said with equal emphasis of Conception. This colt raced only three times and he was much to like. About the way he did his work when winning at Ascot in September.

He was not called upon that day until after passing the half-way mark. The smooth manner in which he went into the lead created a good impression.

Conception then failed by a short head to give 7lb. to Coronation Year, who has to concede 5lb. in the Free Handicap. That was because Coronation Year evinced much improvement when running third in the Middle Park Stakes.

I have already told of my misgivings about the running of that race. The handicapper accepted the Ascot running of Conception and that was a reasonable thing to do.

## REWARD

Mr Willie Saltnoff may regret that Conception is not in any of the classic races as he likes to have a tilt at the best. There will be other opportunities for the colt and the future is likely to show that the patient policy adopted will reap its reward.

Conception was little more than a racehorse in the making when he finished for the season. He may well turn out to be the best to carry the owner's colours to date.

There should be no doubt about Conception staying a mile and a half.

—(London Express Service)

## Ninth Wicket Stand Says Queensland

Adelaide, Dec. 28.

A ninth wicket partnership of 112 between Vic Raymer and Peter Burge, a young batsman, saved Queensland from following on against South Australia on the third day of their Sheffield Shield game to-day.

Raymer hit hard for 84 and Burge made 64. Queensland, carrying their Saturday total of 192 for six to 308, finished 100 runs behind South Australia's score of 414.

After losing four second innings wickets cheaply, South Australia were 174 for four at the close when they were 280 runs ahead. The match ends to-morrow.

Raymer followed his blight hitting with a fine spell of left-arm slow-medium bowling which saw him take the five four South Australian innings wickets for 100 runs.

# FOR THE FIRST TIME—HUNGARY'S SECRETS

## England Can Win The Return If...

By HAROLD MAYES

"If I could take the England players for three days a week from now until next May, train them in the pure, fresh air away from the smoky cities, and let them put the strategic theories into practice until they could go through the same movements almost blindfold, there is no doubt that they would beat the Hungarians in Budapest."

Who said that? One of the England selectors currently engaged trying to find a cure for Hungarian hangover? An optimistic Football League club director, one of the band who will not admit there's anything wrong with English football?

No, the man who made that calculated statement is a Hungarian, one who, but for the fact that he is a political fugitive from behind the Iron Curtain, would almost certainly have been one of the performers in the Wembley humbling of England's Soccer might last month.

Janos Kedes, 26-year-old inside forward—"I can play in any position on the right side of the field, just as most of the Hungarian national team can do"—began his Soccer education some 20 years ago when he and the one and only Ferenc Puskas went to school together.

He played in top-grade Soccer, getting exactly the same training and coaching from "old man Puskas" as he gave to his son, the man so many people rate as the world's greatest inside-forward today.

When the current all-conquering team was being assembled, with outstanding performers from all the clubs around Budapest getting the pick-it-or-lose-it call to join Honved, "the Home Guard" team which forms the nucleus of the national side, Janos confidently expected that he would be one of the chosen.

All too soon he found the reason he had been left out. As a former member of the Hungarian paratroops he formed the opinion that not only was his football nature at home likely to be anything but cozy, but that his life might be in danger.

In the five years which followed he worked as a labourer in a brickworks in Austria, as an electrician in South Wales, and has more recently been employed as a labourer in a Lancashire mill.

## IT HAD ALL BEEN PLANNED

Not unnaturally, he saw the Wembley game. He saw all the schemes he had helped to formulate in Budapest Soccer classrooms put into brilliant execution to give the Olympic Champions a resounding victory over England.

Now he has been telling me the secrets of the Soccer conquerors of Europe, secrets which at least one First Division club's manager has said he would willingly take a trip eastwards to obtain.

"Stun Cullis, of Wolverhampton, read, has said he would like to go to Hungary to gain knowledge of Hungarian training methods at first hand," Janos said. "That is something I would not advise. It is possible, even in football, for people to see too many things and ask too many questions, and it isn't always healthy."

"But if the Soccer-minded people of England really want to know how the Hungarian

success has been achieved, I can tell them. Make no mistake, this is not something which has happened by accident.

"All of the players have been together these five years, but for long before that their training followed exactly the same pattern as it does today. I know because I took part in it."

"If England wants to succeed against Hungary, the same kind of plan has to be adopted. In your article after the Wembley match, when you suggested that England must go at least three sides together and let them play together to build for the future, you were nearer the mark than anyone else there, because that is precisely the Hungarian pattern."

"This may be a wonder team. Five years from now it will not be the end of Hungarian supremacy unless other countries adopt methods at least as well founded. For there is another team coming up behind the present one, all ready to take its place, and still another one behind that."

## THEY LIKE IT

"They play football because they like playing football. Forget the stories about compulsion in their training, because there is no compulsion. They do it because they like doing it, and they certainly do not do it for money."

"True, many of them owe their jobs to their playing ability, and many of them just report for their work as a formality and spend the rest of their days in training, but they do get good fabulous sums for doing so."

"Take Puskas. He is in the army. He shows up in the morning, salutes, signs a few papers, and then goes off to work at football. Don't let anyone fool you about Puskas. He is more than just a cog in the machine."

"Forget the trainers and coaches you hear about. Puskas is trainer, coach, manager, and player as well, and everything he does on the field is part of the drill his father taught him, and to me, when we were kids."

"You will have noticed that the Hungarian team had terrific stamina. That is because all the preparation is directed towards improving the lungs and the legs. All the footballers in Hungary, not just those at the top, do all sorts of exercises to increase the capacity of their lungs, including lifting heavy weights with their chests."

"In England I'm told that many trainers frown on swimming because it is supposed to slow down an athlete. All the Hungarians swim regularly playing a game devised by Puskas, senior, of hide-and-seek in the water, to give them more lung power."

"And they all begin the day voluntarily, with a cross-country run of at least two miles. If they have to work, they promise to run to their place of business, in their ordinary clothes, and then they take a cold shower immediately they arrive. Then they have their breakfast before they start to work."

"The government has encouraged everyone to be sport-minded. Managers of works allow their men who wish to train to leave their benches two hours early, without loss of wages, so that they can turn their attention to sport. They don't lose money by doing so, for the prizes are high. An Olympic success, such as Nemeth gained in the Hammer Throw at the Wembley Olympics in 1948, can bring the firm for which a man works a five-year government contract."

## ONCE THEY LAUGHED—NOT NOW

"And in those training hours, they really get down to business. Often, for half-an-hour every man goes out with a ball. Not always a football, but often a tennis ball, because if you can make a ball do anything, you can do it with anything."

"I have seen Puskas stand for hours, trying to balance a football on his hip. Sometimes people have laughed. But now he can pull a ball down, that way, without any difficulty, and he can do it with anything."

"England's half-backs, by using the Wembley game, because many of our players are English, have been humiliated. They have been humiliated because they have not been trained in the same way as the Hungarians."

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that the majority of them trapped the ball with their shins, with the foot well back, so that the time they began to run forward it was theirs.

"And, of course, they know just what was going to happen every time. We were always taught by 'old man Puskas' that something happens in every five minutes of a game. Either a throw-in, or an off-side, or a free-kick, which enables the attacking policy which is being used to be re-grouped."

## ATTACKING ZONE ON THE RIGHT

"The Wembley attack was based on five men and I do not mean the five forwards. The attacking zone was the right side of the field. And although there were often two, and sometimes three, men in open spaces waiting for the ball, every man knew, according to who was in possession, whether he was due to get it next."

"It wasn't just an accident. He knew that when he saw the man who was due to give it to him in possession that he just had to get into the clear. I know, because I've played that in practice games many times, when the five men, irrespective of their positions, have been numbered one, two, three, four, five, and the ball just had to be used in that order, or you started all over again."

"That's where the five-minute periods enter into the scheme of things. If an attack hasn't succeeded in that time, and no stoppage has come, it's time to start all over again, and then Hungarian strategy is based in funneling the ball back, right to the goalkeeper, so that he can put the attacking plan into action once more."

"They funnelled that ball down the left, which was the defensive zone. That was the reason your great Stanley Matthews just didn't have a chance."

"And then they built up the attack on the right once more, always with the idea of trying to make sure that the ball was given to Hidgekutt, the number five in the attacking plan, somewhere around the right-hand corner of the

penalty area (see shaded area on diagram) because he can shoot from any angle, with great power, so long as the ball gets to him in that region."

"You know how well it worked—he got three brilliant goals. The others? Well, those, even that great one by Puskas everyone raved about, were accidents. But if you look back you'll realize they all came from the same plan."

"There, then, are the real secrets. Supreme fitness, ball control, strategy planned so that everyone knows just what is going to happen next."

"If I had the chance I could teach it all to England. Hungary can be beaten—that way. Perhaps it will happen—I hope so."

And so do I!

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## PUSKAS GOAL—ACCIDENT

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**MELBOURN APARTMENTS**  
2-15, Mody Rd., Kowloon.

## World Cup Soccer

Port Au Prince, Haiti, Dec. 28.

Mexico completed a double over Haiti in the World Soccer Cup group qualifying tournament when they won 4-0 here yesterday.

They led 2-0 at half time. Mexico won the first match 8-0.

The United States, the only other nation in this group, have not yet opened their campaign. Winner of the group will qualify for the final stage of the competition in Switzerland next summer.—Reuter.



# BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO		
"HUNAN"	Tsingtau & Tientsin	5 p.m. 30th Dec.
"FUKIEN"	Tokyo & Yokohama	8 a.m. 31st Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"HANYANG"	Indragiri & Singapore	4 p.m. 30th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	3 p.m. 30th Dec.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO		
"TAIPING"	Kobe & Yokohama	9th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila	6th Jan.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden &amp; Port Said

Sails	Loads	Arrives
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Jan. 6th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan. 14th Jan.
"CLYTONUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan. 23rd Jan.
"ASTYANAX"	Amsterdam, London & Hamburg	24th Jan. 25th Jan.
"PYRHIUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	31st Feb. 6th Feb.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails	Loads	Arrives
G. "CLYTONUS"	Liverpool	daylight 29th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	8th Jan. 1954
G. "PYRHIUS"	do	13th Dec. 1953
S. "EUMAEUS"	do	26th Jan. 1954
G. "ABOANUS"	24th Dec.	28th Jan. 1954
S. "AGAFENON"	3rd Jan.	7th Feb. 1954
G. "PELEUS"	7th Jan. 13th Jan.	13th Feb. 1954
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Jan.	22nd Feb. 1954

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool, S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool.

Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load &amp; discharge cargo.

## DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC &amp; PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	31st Dec.
"DONA AURORA"	do	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	30th Dec.
"BATAAN"	do	12th Jan.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	15th Jan.	6th Feb.

SAILING FOR NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES &amp; CRISTOBAL.

Loads	Sails
"AJAX"	4th Jan.
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.
"AGAMEMNON"	3rd Feb.

Accept cargo for Kingston and to Central &amp; South American ports on through bills of lading.

## Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Depart Hongkong	Arrives H.K.
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4) 7.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	7.15 a.m. Wed. Sat.
(Connects at Bangkok with U.A. on Tuesdays for Rangoon)		
HK/Mandarin/N. Borneo	(DC-3) 9.30 a.m. Tue. Fri.	3.45 p.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Singapore	(DC-3) 11.00 a.m. Wed.	5.00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Rangoon/Calcutta	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

For particulars please apply to:

Butterfield &amp; Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.

1 Connaught Rd. Tel: 30331/8

Branch Office: 50 Connaught Rd. West. Tel: 25875, 32144, 24878

## CHINA MAIL

HONGKONG

PUBLISHED DAILY

(AFTERNOON)

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Postage: China and Macao \$2.00

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Telephone: 2611 (5 Lines).

KOWLOON OFFICE:

Sallyway Road,

Telephone: 2332.

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cents each additional word.

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If not prepaid a booking fee

of 50 cents is charged.

BIRTHS

ZIMMERMAN-To Helen, wife of Francis

Zimmerman on December 20, 1953,

at the French Hospital, a

daughter, Helen Frances.

HOME LEAVE

ENGLAND, Comfortable home leave

at "The Hales", Newham, Glas-

gow. Modernised self-contained furnished

flat, country mansion, delightful

surroundings 200 acres, woodlands,

children's paradise. Constant hot

water, electricity, centrally heated.

Nursery with trained nannies. Domest-

ic help. Television. From 4 1/2 guineas

weekly. A few vacancies for 1954.

Inquiries: Mrs. E. J. Eves.

MUSICAL

NCA Victor LP records consisting of

symphonies, operas, chamber music,

instrumental and vocal. Available D.

Box 4A Dec Vaux Road, Room 1,

2nd floor. Tel. 20100.

FOR SALE

PACKING PAPER in bales of

approximately 100 lbs. Apply

to C. M. Post Ltd.

Hongkong, 28th December, 1953.

## Messageries Maritimes

P.O. Box 58 Queen's Building. Tel: 26651.

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN

by the luxurious

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

Sailing from Hongkong 30th December 1953

NOTICE

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Tai Ping Insurance Co., Ltd.,

Hong Kong Branch

The Tai Ping Underwriters, (H.K.) Ltd.

As from 24th December, 1953

our Telephone Numbers will be:—

33330

28055 (New lines replacing previous

28056 number 26191)

Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CIE DES MESSAGERIES

MARITIMES

Consignees per Company's

s.s. "BIR HAKEIM"

are hereby notified that their cargo

is being discharged into the Hong-

kong &amp; Kowloon Wharf &amp; Godown

Co.'s godown where it will be at

Consignee's risk and subject to the

Wharf's terms and conditions of stor-

age, and where delivery may be ob-

tained.

Damaged packages are to be left

in the godown for examination by

Consignees and the Company's sur-

veyors. Messrs. Goddard &amp; Douglas

at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 2nd January,

1954.

To comply with the General Bond-

ed Warehouse Regulations, Con-

signees must have a Revenue Officer

in attendance when damaged duff-

able goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after

the goods have left the steamer's

godown, and all goods remaining

undelivered after 4th January, 1954,

will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer

must be presented to the Under-

signed on or before 24th January,

1954, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIE DES MESSAGERIES

MARITIMES

Hongkong, 28th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Consignees per

BARBER-WILHELMSEN LINE

m.s. "TALLEYRAND"

are hereby notified that their cargo

is being discharged into the Hong-

kong &amp; Kowloon Wharf &amp; Godown

Co.'s godown where it will be at

Consignee's risk and subject to the

Wharf's terms and conditions of stor-

age, and where delivery may be ob-

tained.

Damaged packages are to be left

in the godown for examination by

Consignees and the Company's sur-

veyors. Messrs. Goddard &amp; Douglas

at 10 a.m. on the 24th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bond-

ed Warehouse Regulations, Con-

signees must have a Revenue Officer

in attendance when damaged duff-

able goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after

the goods have left the steamer's

godown, and all goods remaining

undelivered after the 31st December,

1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer

must be presented to the Under-

signed on or before the 7th January,

1954, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL &amp; CO., LTD.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 28th December, 1953.

## More Canadian Ships For U.K. Registry

Ottawa, Dec. 28.

Britain has agreed to permit the transfer of more deep sea Canadian ships to British registry to avoid high operating costs, it was learned here today.

Two ships have been transferred to the British flag under an agreement reached after a Canadian Cabinet decision this month to open negotiations with Britain.

The decision was made after a request by Canadian ship-owners for the removal of government restrictions on the disposal of Canadian vessels, whose operation costs under Canadian registry are among the highest in the world.

The Cabinet refused to lift the restrictions completely, but decided to ask Britain to take some of the ships under British registry, where running costs are much lower.

In 1950, Britain took 82 Canadian ships in this fashion, with ownership remaining in Canada.

The number of ships to be transferred has been decided in the new arrangement.

Informants said the general terms of each transfer would be the same as in the earlier pact.

The profits from British registered operation would return to Canada, and the owners would pay Canadian income tax—Reuter.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m/s "ANCHISES"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will

be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard &amp;

Douglas at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m.

on December 31, 1953 and January

2, 1954, and consignees are requested

to have their representatives present

during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD &amp; SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, December 29, 1953.

## P&O B.I. E&A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR &amp; ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves (London)	Due Hongkong
"CORFU"	10th December	12th January
"CHUBAN"	18th December	18th January
"CANTON"	26th December	25th January
"CARTHAGE"	4th January	8th March
via Southampton, Penang, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore		
Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CORFU"	15th January	15th February
"CHUBAN"	1st February	1st March
"CANTON"	15th February	15th March
"CARTHAGE"	12th March	12th April

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said &amp; London.

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves	For
"TRESILLIAN"	18th January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, Glasgow, Liverpool, North, Continent.
"SOCOTRA"	3rd January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, London, North Continent.

With liberty to call at Balatun before or after Strait Ports and at Bombay &amp; Aden en route.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

Sails	Leaves	From
"SIRIDHANA"	3rd Jan.	from Japan
"WABORA"	6th Jan.	from Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"ANSHUN"	11th Jan.	from Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta
	12th Jan.	from Calcutta, Rangoon & Straits
	12th Jan.	from Yawata, Yokohama & Kobe

P. &amp; O.B. I. JOINT SERVICE

In Port	Leaves	From
"ORNA"	20th Dec.	from Japan, Port Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Khormashahr & Basrah direct to Gulf ports via Bombay
"OLINDA"	7th Jan.	from Karachi, Colombo & Straits
"OKELA"	8th Jan.	from Japan
	12th Jan.	from Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khormashahr & Basrah direct. Also direct to Gulf ports via Bombay
"UMARIA"	22nd Jan.	from Japan
	23rd Jan.	from Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khormashahr & Basrah direct. Also direct to Gulf ports via Bombay

EASTERN &amp; AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

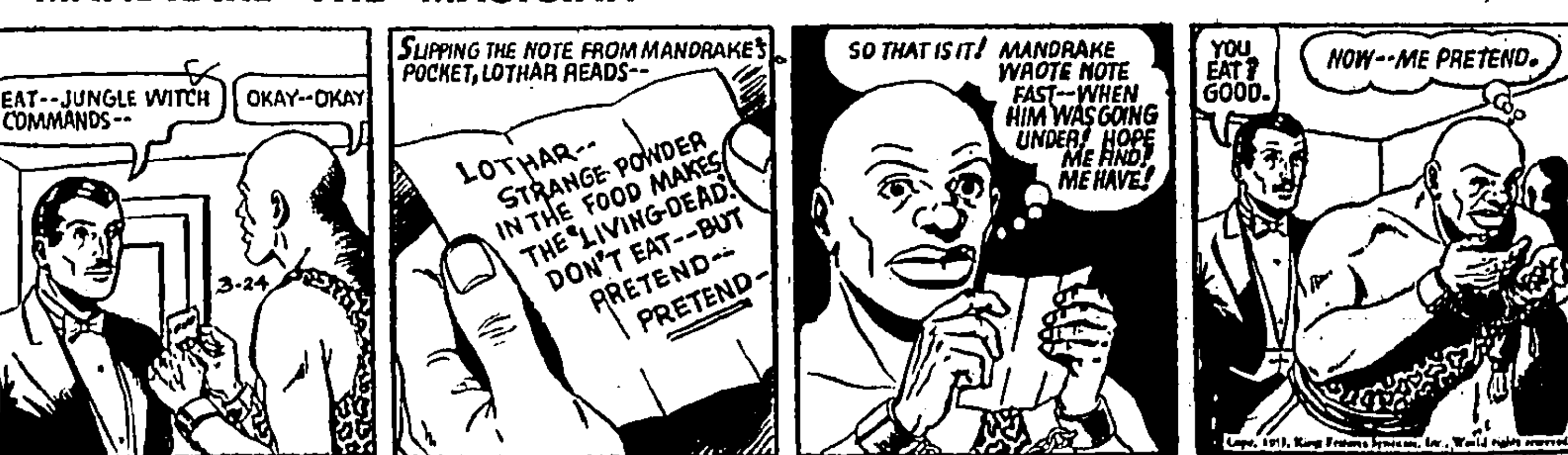
Sails	Leaves	From
"NELLORE"	14th Jan.	from Japan & Tsingtau
	15th Jan.	from Sydney, Adelaide & Melbourne
"EASTERN"	19th Feb.	from Australia
	20th Feb.	from Japan

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route &amp; the route &amp; sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to: MACKINNON, MACKENZIE &amp; CO. OF HONG KONG LTD. Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

## MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



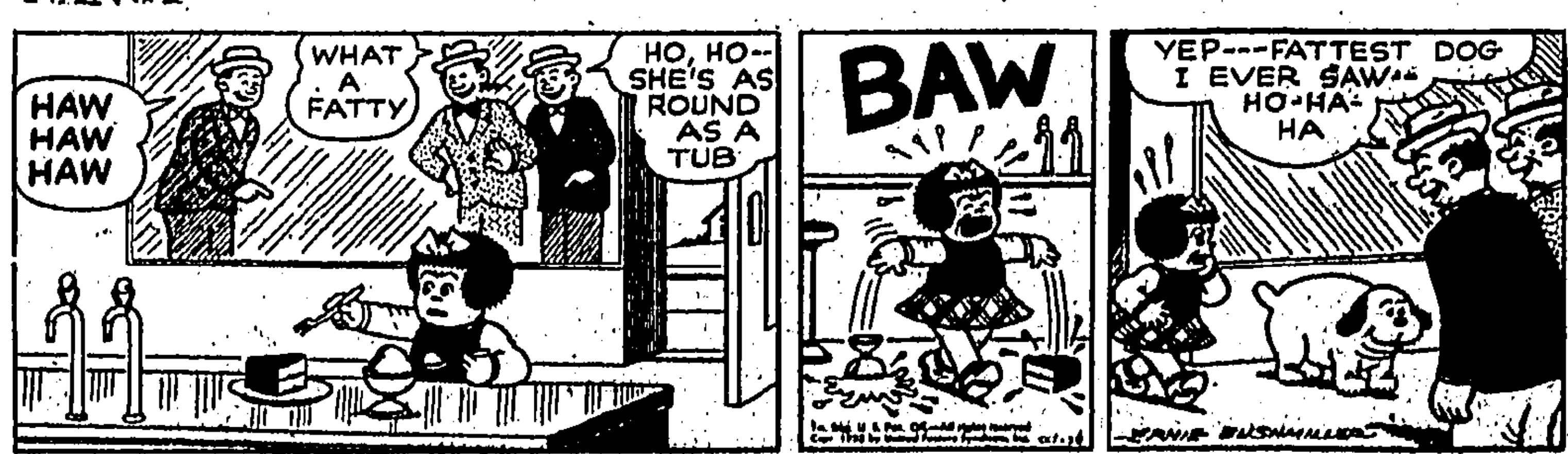
## FERD'NAND

Roughing It



## NANCY

You Dog!



## JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



## Arab League Against Jordan-Israel Discussions

Beirut, Dec. 28.

The powerful Arab League's political committee is likely to reject the idea of Jordan-Israel bilateral negotiations to solve their outstanding differences in a manner proposed by the United Nations well-informed sources predicted tonight.

A terse communique issued at the close of the current session of the Arab League's political committee said it had unanimously approved the draft of the reply that Jordan proposed to send the U.N. in answer to the latter's note urging the opening of direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

In a brief comment on the communique, the League's secretary-general, Abdel Kader Hachem, said he was sure that the League's decision would be welcomed in all the Arab countries—France-Press.

## Trade Unions In Russia To Change Statutes





Choir Boys of the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula Tower of London, rehearse carols outside the Bloody Tower during a carol service in which the choristers go to different parts of the Tower of London as a feature of the Christmas celebrations. — Express Photo.

## Not Enough Space For The Ships In The Port Of Antwerp

Antwerp, Dec. 28.

The port of Antwerp, bustling with more trade than ever before, has become too small to accommodate a post-war boom in shipping.

Along the port's 32 miles of quays, not one wharf is open to take new ships. All the berths, if not permanently occupied, are permanently reserved by the shipping companies which have regular services to and from Antwerp.

More than 230 lines use the port, with its strategic position in the Scheldt, to trade with every part of the world.

## C. African Vote—A Success For Union

London, Dec. 28.

The British Government's reaction to the result of the first federal election in Central Africa was one of relief.

Their whole plan of Federation was based on a policy of partnership and the return of the race-conscious Confederate Party would have made a nonsense of that.

The results were welcome to all those who want federation to succeed. But this did not mean everyone in Britain. For those who bitterly opposed federation this summer, and continue to do so, would have liked the result to be different. Then they could have said "We told you so."

With less forceful characters at its head the Federal Party would have enjoyed a much smaller majority.

Two TO ONE MAJORITY

It is unfortunate for the Federal Government that it will not have the services of Mr. G. B. Beckett of the Northern Rhodesian legislature who was destined for high office in it. Magnanimously, he chose to stand down in order to lead public opinion in Northern Rhodesia until such time as new stars appear on the political horizon. When they do, Mr. Beckett, whose ability and negotiating skill are respected in Whitehall, may feel that he can leave Lusaka politics for the wider arena of the Federal Parliament.

The number of Federal Party candidates returned, however, must not obscure the fact that a large number of votes were cast in favour of the opposition group. Roughly, the Federalists were in by two to one. So, in a way, their victory was not as decisive as their strength in the Federal Parliament suggests.

But the results, nevertheless suggest that Central Africa is beginning to develop a feeling of nationhood. It has affirmed its belief that the native policy for which it has voted—and the election turned on this—is the golden mean between "black domination" and "apartheid."

To sacrifice the permanent berths which these lines reserve would mean a loss of valuable time for each company in turning round its ships, causing many, possibly, to take their trade to another port.

Antwerp had to undertake a large reconstruction programme after the heavy flying bomb raids at the end of the war. Now, snowed under with orders from new lines wanting to use the port, the city is in the paradoxical position of having to turn away the trade on which it depends.

For over two years, the shortage of docking space has been becoming more and more acute. The German merchant fleet, which before the war held pride of place in Antwerp, is again being built up and seeking to regain its pre-war position in the port.

The Japanese merchant fleet is also beginning to make its appearance in Antwerp. In 1952, 11,750 sea-going ships totalling 28,027,193 tons entered the port—the highest tonnage ever recorded in Antwerp. The previous record was set up in 1937 with 12,586 ships but only 25,121,471 tons.

### BIGGER SHIPS

The figures show that ships entering the port have become less numerous but larger since before the war—which has not simplified Antwerp's problem. Statistics for the first eight months of this year forecast that 1953 will break new records. From January to August this year, 8,493 sea-going ships docked in Antwerp compared with 7,788 for the same period in 1952.

The end of the Korean war brought a slight downward trend in Antwerp's trade, which is now slowly beginning to rise again. But the port's traffic fell by only three per cent, while her great Dutch rival, Rotterdam, suffered a 10 per cent reduction in trade.

Apart from sea-going ships, inland waterway traffic in the port has increased by over 1,000,000 tons since before the war. Added to this large sea and canal trade, new oil refineries and the ever-growing car assembly plants in the city are bringing still more trade to the port.

In an attempt to remedy the shortage of docking space, Antwerp is planning to build its 23rd basin which will take two years and 700,000,000 Belgian francs (over 2,400,000 sterling) to complete. Already practically every berth in the new basin has been reserved, however, and the port's problem will be little nearer solution when the new docks are finished.

### ANOTHER BASIN

Work is expected to begin on another basin as soon as the first has been built to ensure that the port can maintain its ever-increasing flow of trade. Antwerp claims the reputation of being the "fastest" port in the world for loading and discharging ships. This reputation has been built up on the port's

modern installations and its 16,000 dockers, who were given the highest "working" grade of any in the world by a recent international commission of port experts.

But despite its modern installations, the 500 miles of railway lines ensuring direct links between ships and the European railway network, its huge freezing installations and its floating grain elevators, the port has to struggle continuously to keep "up to date".

The docks are under the charge of the city of Antwerp which is having difficulty meeting the cost of the large extension and modernisation plans under way.

Modern ships, larger than ever, require bigger cranes to load and unload at the normal pace. The 20,000-ton tankers which will begin to use the port shortly need two new dry docks, costing 200,000,000 Belgian francs each (nearly 1,500,000 sterling) for repair work. Old basins have to be continually refitted.

The government, recognising Antwerp's position, has taken a bold step in constructing a new lock into the port. Begun in 1951 and to be finished in two years' time, this lock, named after King Baudouin, will permit traffic to enter the port more quickly. But allowing more ships to enter the docks will not solve the shortage of berthing space.

The port's trade has for a long time concerned many more countries than Belgium. North and East France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and countries even more distant rely greatly upon Antwerp as an outlet to the sea.—China Mail Special.

## What Is The Kremlin Doing In The Middle East?

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 28. Israel's Minister to Moscow, Dr. Samuel Eilashiv, will shortly hold conversations with Soviet Government leaders on the Soviet Union's policy in the Middle East, well-informed circles here said today.

The Soviet Union is preparing to despatch to the Arab countries a mission composed of delegates selected from the Moslem clergy in the Soviet Union.

The interview recently granted by Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky, the chief Soviet delegate to the United Nations, to an Egyptian newspaper, "Consolidation," also indicated to the belief held here that the Soviet is trying to establish an understanding with the Arab States.

## HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$270,070.30. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES  
BANKS  
JIC Bank 1595 1095 5 of 1003

INSURANCES  
Lombard 55 1/2 300 of 50 1/2  
Union 630 840 200 of 50

SHIPPING  
Asia Nav. 1 1/2

DOCKS, ETC.  
K. Wharf 84 1/2  
STORCS (Old) 12 1/2  
Provident 12 1/2 12 1/2  
Newell 12 1/2 12 1/2  
Whitlock 8 1/2 10 1/2 2,000 of 500

LAND, ETC.  
JIC Hotel 8 1/2 8 1/2 3,000 of 50  
H.K. Hotel 70 70 1/2  
Sibai Land 1 1/2  
Humphreys 18 30 1 1/2 1,000 of 1,000  
Rita 12 1/2 1,000 of 50

UTILITIES  
Electric 26 30 20 1/2 200 of 25 1/2  
Star Ferry 140 200 of 147  
C. Light (O) 13 1/2 14 1/2 1,000 of 13 1/2  
C. Light (N) 10 1/2 11 1/2 20 of 10 1/2  
Electric Elec. 29 10 70 30 of 20  
Falls Crawford 27 20 500 of 27 20

INDUSTRIALS  
Cement 18 1/2 19 1/2  
STORCS, ETC. 10 1/2  
Daily 25 25 2,500 of 25 20  
Watson 21 1/2  
COTTONS  
Hewitt 7 1/2 2 1/2 2,000 of 7 1/2  
Textile Corp. 7 1/2 1,000 of 7 1/2  
Miscellaneous  
Nanyang 6 1/2 6 1/2

NEW YORK SUGAR MARKET

New York, Dec. 28.

World No. 4 sugar futures today closed unchanged to 2 points lower with sales of five contracts.

Domestic No. 6 sugar futures closed 1 point lower to 1 point higher with sales of 105 contracts. Future closings:—  
Contract No. 4 (world) 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 6 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 8 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 10 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 12 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 14 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 16 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 18 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 20 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 22 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 24 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 26 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 28 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 30 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 32 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 34 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 36 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 38 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 40 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 42 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 44 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 46 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 48 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 50 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 52 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 54 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 56 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 58 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 60 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
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Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 62 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
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Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 64 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
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Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 66 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 68 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 70 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 72 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 74 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 76 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 78 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 80 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 82 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 84 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 86 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
Sept. 32 1/2  
Contract No. 88 35 1/2  
March 32 1/2  
May 32 1/2  
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Page 10 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1953.

## JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

### The Fugitive

**PUNCH - DRUNK** with shaggy doggerel and scarcely able to think, except in rhymed couplets, the lunch-hour crowd milled round the Christmas-card counter.

So preoccupied was everyone, that no one noticed James. He, a lean, hungry, bitter-looking man in crumpled, fraying clothes, stood before the counter examining cards as if he hoped to find in one a really unseasonable message. Presently he forced his way through the crowd and left.

A little later in that afternoon, as James was walking down Gray's Inn Road, a policeman in plain-clothes stopped him. "What's that in your mac pocket?" the policeman asked. James brought out a box of Christmas cards, and perhaps because his mood seemed so at odds with their message, the policeman asked where he had bought them.

**ME? BUY THOSE?**

"Me? Spend money on things like that?" said James, offended. "I pinched them from a shop." He brought two magazines from his pocket. "Picked these up too," he said, "off of a bookstall."

James was arrested and next morning at the Clerkenwell court, he pleaded guilty to his thefts before Mr. F. H. Powell. "He's a single man, aged 32, and I understand he does have a criminal record," said the officer in charge of the case, when he had told the magistrate of James's arrest. "If we could have a remand."

"What do you want to say?" Mr. Powell asked James. "I'd just got into London, looking for work," James answered. He was remanded for a week.

#### THE RECORD

**WHEN** James was brought back into the dock, the bitterness that had been in his face before seemed to have gone, and now he looked content, at peace with the world. The police officer went into the witness-box and opened a bulky file of papers. "I have details of this man's convictions, now, sir," he said to the magistrate.

James settled himself more comfortably in the dock, and tossed a long lock of hair off his head. He looked like a man about to be praised in public, who has been through the experience before and found it not unpleasant.

"There are 14 previous convictions," the officer began. "They date from 1937, when he was 16."

#### VERSATILE

**HE** began to read the list, detailing every one of James's varied crimes. He had been fined for stealing in Inverness and gaolled in London for shop-breaking, discharged conditionally at Acton for loitering with intent to steal, sent to prison in Blackpool for sleeping rough, and in Sheffield for smashing a window.

He had stolen on one occasion a rubber ball and on another a packet of cigarettes, from a shop he had stolen a book, from a church, a trifle had been given chances, and each time had got himself arrested for something else on the next day.

Hearing the story, Jaffies allowed himself a wry smile, and when he was asked what he wanted to say, just answered as before: "I came to London to look for work."

"You seem to be just a public nuisance. You'd better go to Sessions for sentence," said the magistrate.

James ambled off. He looked contented. As he had been seeking some escape from the season—and had found it.

### NATIONAL FUND FOR PRINCESS

Luxembourg, Dec. 28. Crown Princess Josephine Charlotte, wife of Crown Prince Jean of Luxembourg, received 10 million Belgian francs (£2,720,000) from a national fund opened for her wedding here last April, it was announced. The Princess, who is expecting a baby at the end of January, has given over half the money towards an infantile paralysis foundation which is being set up in Belgium. The Princess is the sister of 22-year-old King Baudouin of the Belgians.—Reuter.

## Laos Crisis: Defence Minister Returning

Paris, Dec. 28. Faced with the Vietnam drive through Laos to the Thailand border, the Laotian Minister of Defence and concurrently Vice-Premier, Phouey Sananikone, tonight left Orly airport here to rejoin his government in Vientiane. Accompanying the Defence Minister was Prince Outong Souvannavong, the Laotian Minister of Education and Information. Both men had been attending the third session of the High Council of the French Union.

The Defence Minister revealed that the defence base for Franco-Laotian forces was at Savannakhet and its nearby air base of Seno.

He said that the Vietnam attack on Thakhek had been expected since October and that no defence preparations had been made there as Thakhek was considered to be an open town.

A military mission, he revealed, had made an inventory of all material to be evacuated or destroyed.

In Paris tonight, the military situation following the Vietnam advance into Laos was still far from clear on the basis of the latest reports reaching the French capital.

It was known, however, that Thakhek was a stepping-off point for a further Vietnam move and, some 50 miles to the south of the town, Savannakhet is being transformed into a key defence outpost based on the nearby Seno airfield.

**TURN BACK** French-Laotian forces, coming from the south, tonight encountered no Vietnam elements and it is believed that they suddenly turned from their westward advance and were striking southward toward the line cutting across Indo-China between Savannakhet and the seaport of Hue.

Military experts here point out that the terrain in Laos—a kind of jungle denseness on the slopes of mountain chains and valleys which cannot be used as communications owing to un navigable rivers and abrupt inclines—would make it possible for both Franco-Laotian defenders and probing Vietnam elements completely to miss each other.

They added, however, that the Vietnam had scored a surprise success and that the evacuation of Thakhek had aroused grave fears in neighbouring Thailand.

#### LINES CUT

They pointed out that, although Indo-China had, for a long time, been divided into a number of different trunks, the latest Vietnam advance, by reaching the Mekong River, had cut the communication lines from the principal points of southern Laos, Savannakhet and Paksy, to the two capitals of Laos, Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

It was stressed here, however, that despite the alarm raised elsewhere, the French High Command was remaining calm and was simply considering Ho Chi Minh's latest move as the creation of yet another sector in the "real war"—a sector to be added to the Tonkin Delta and the Thai country theatres, replacing the guerrilla warfare that had hitherto held sway in the new region of the advance.—France-Press.

#### WITHDRAWING TROOPS

Paris, Dec. 28. A planned withdrawal of 15,000 men in the French Expeditionary Corps in Indo-China by the end of 1954 was forecast today by the French Defence Minister, M. Rene Pleven, who told the National Assembly Defence Committee that supplementary American aid this year of about \$85,000,000 had made possible the withdrawing of the entire cost of establishing national armies in the three Associated States of Indo-China.

Presenting the projected French military budget for 1954, M. Pleven said that the withdrawal of French effectives would be made possible by the build-up of the national armies of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

M. Pleven told the committee that the budget for 1954 totalled 830 billion francs (about \$2,400,000,000) less than the present year's budget, but he pointed out that this reduction had been offset by a substantial increase in American aid. Appropriations asked for 1954 totalled 820 billion francs (about \$2,300,000,000).

## Seven Die In Well

Cairo, Dec. 28.

Seven members of a caravan died today in an attempt to rescue a camel driver who fell into a 50-foot abandoned well during a search for water for his animals near Abnoub in Central Egypt.

Eight other members of the caravan had tried to get down into the well to rescue the camel driver, and six of them were asphyxiated by the foul air, while the other two were barely able to climb back to the surface. By the time aid arrived the seven in the well were dead.—France-Press.

## FRONTIER INCIDENTS

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 28.

One Israeli soldier was shot dead and another injured today in two separate incidents along the Israeli-Jordan frontier. It was reported here today.

Elements of the Arab Legion were reported to have fired on an Israeli military group in Boudroun, near Lydda, Israel, who with the approval of the Mixed Armistice Commission were preparing to mark off the border. One of the Israeli soldiers was killed.

The second incident occurred at Daxamin in South Negbe where about 60 Arabs exchanged fire with an Israeli patrol for more than an hour. The Arabs, reported to have infiltrated into Israeli territory, were repulsed. One Israeli soldier was injured.—France-Press.

## JOLIFFE SENTENCED

(Continued from Page 1)

against the decision before the Supreme Court. Joliffe said he would fly back to Hongkong as soon as possible, probably tomorrow or the day after, in order to be with his wife and three children for the New Year. He refused to comment on the sentence but denied vehemently that he tried to bribe a customs inspector, Eleazar Manikan, upon his arrest at the Manila International airport on December 7.

Judge Tan, in a ten pages judgment admitted the testimony of Manikan to this effect as correct. However, he said the attempted bribery had nothing to do with the case, which was purely a question of law.—France-Press.

## FIRE VICTIMS RELIEF FUND

(Continued from Page 1)

Drs Anderson & Partners	500.00
John P. Fu	100.00
Mr & Mrs G. N. Ross	100.00
H.K. Police Reserve	200.00
P. S. Iaratas	5.00
Misses Allsen & Doris Woods	30.00
Professor & Mrs F. S. Drake	100.00
Netherlands Trading Society	2,500.00
C. W. Morris	100.00
Previously Acknowledged:	
Total at 10 a.m. today:	\$100,000.00

## SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I'm 20 minutes late because an escaped monkey tied up traffic, but it might be safer to tell him I overslept!"

## Tried To Sell HER THIRD Obscene Literature

Lau Ming, 25, unemployed, of a side door at 10 Queen's Road Central, was charged before Mr. Min-shing Lo at Central this morning with exposing to the public view printed matter of an obscene nature.

The defendant, who pleaded guilty to the charge, was remanded 24 hours for sentence by the Magistrate when Prosecuting Officer, Insp. W. E. Howell, requested an adjournment for finger-prints to be taken.

Outlining the case, Insp. Howell told the Court that a European Police Inspector saw the defendant with some books in his possession, talking to some American sailors at a side door in Queen's Road Central.

On seeing the Police Officer the accused tried to run away, but was caught after a chase. The accused admitted attempting to sell the books for \$2 each, said Insp. Howell.

## Deportee's Claim

In a review of sentence before Mr. J. Pakenham-Walsh at Central this morning, Ng Tam-fat, 25, unemployed, who was previously sentenced to twelve months' hard labour for breach of a deportation order told the Court that he had never been deported outside the Colony.

Defendant said that when the boat reached Tai Mui all the deportees were then ordered to disembark. Defendant said that he walked from Tai Mui to Hang Hau and then he took a boat back to Shaukiwan. Defendant was remanded to this afternoon.

## Made Fast To Steamer

For making fast to a steamer which was still underway, two defendants, Lee Yiu, 30, mistress of a cargo vessel and Leung Sap-ning, 48, master of a cargo junk, were each fined \$100, and a third, Lee Wing-kai, 35, master of a cargo junk, who had one previous conviction, was fined \$150 by Mr. A. G. Parker at the Marine Court this morning.

The Prosecution said that at about 9 a.m. yesterday, defendants' vessels were found making fast to the mv. Hoi Wong, which was proceeding to her berth at Buoy B10. First defendant's junk was tied to the stern on the starboard side of the ship, while the other craft were tied to the stern on the port side.

"What's Her Line?" Solution OVERSEAS London Express Service.

## Alleged Conspiracy And Possession Of Dangerous Drugs

The story of the discovery and seizure of a large quantity of dangerous drugs and implements for the manufacture of heroin, and the arrest of two Shanghai Chinese nine months ago, was related by the Prosecution before Mr Justice A. D. Scholes, acting Puisne Judge, at the Criminal Sessions this morning, when the men, Wong Tak-sang, alias Wong Yam, 52, broker, and Wong Kin-ming, 30, chauffeur, appeared on trial on charges of conspiracy and possession of dangerous drugs.

The accused were charged with (1) conspiracy on various dates between April 1, 1951, and March 28, 1953, with others not in custody, to manufacture morphine and heroin; (2) conspiracy on various dates in the same period, with others not in custody, to deal in opium, morphine and heroin; (3) possession on March 28, 1953, of 256 lbs of raw opium, 88½ ounces of diethyl morphine hydrochloride (heroin), 8 lbs of crude morphine, 18 ounces of impure morphine and 11 ounces of morphine hydrochloride; and (4) possession of 1.7 grammes of raw opium on the same date.

Both accused pleaded not guilty to all counts and a Jury of six men and one woman was empanelled. The Prosecution was conducted by Mr D. F. O'Reilly Mayne, Crown Counsel, assisted by Mr W. B. Scragg, ASP, ADCI (Kowloon), and Det. Sub-Insps. J. E. H. Hadden. Both accused were represented by Mr D. A. L. Wright, instructed by Mr F. X. d'Almeida.

**CROWN CASE** Giving the facts of the case to the Jury, Mr O'Reilly Mayne said that about 6.45 p.m. on March 29 this year, a Police party under Sub-Insps. Hadden visited 5B Wang Tung Terrace (in the Bay View district). Prior to entering the flat, the Police found a Studebaker car, No. 7817, parked outside the premises. A guard was left with the car, and the remainder of the Police party then entered the flat.

There they found the two accused. The Police had a conversation with each of the men. First accused said he resided at 113 Leighton Hill Road. He was searched by Insp. Hadden, who found a pocket watch attached to a chain and a bunch of keys on his person. In the meantime there was a conversation between Sub-Insps. Lee, another member of the Police party, and second accused. As a result of this conversation second accused wrote down a certain address on a piece of paper which he immediately destroyed.

Subsequently the Police party, with first and second accused, went by cars to the vicinity of Robinson Road. As they approached a garage at 61 Robinson Road, the second accused pointed to the garage. The Police stopped there, but found the door to the garage secured with a padlock. Insp. Hadden then used one of the keys attached to the watch and which he found on first accused to open the padlock and gain entry into the garage.

Inside the Police found a number of suitcases, boxes, drums and various other implements (all of which were exhibited in Court). There were also some blue rubber sheets. Subsequent examination of the contents of the suitcases and drums by Collins, Government Analyst, revealed the dangerous drugs enumerated in the third charge. Together they formed a very large quantity of dangerous drugs, Mr O'Reilly Mayne declared.

Mr Collins also examined the various implements found and formed the conclusive opinion from their nature that these implements and containers were articles consistent with the manufacture of heroin.

After describing the Jury how heroin came to be made from raw opium, Mr O'Reilly Mayne said that first and second accused later went back with the Police to 5B Wang Tung Terrace where second accused handed the keys over to Insp. Hadden, who went up to the Studebaker car, still under guard, and in one of the pockets of a car door found a sum of \$3,000 and certain cheques which were subsequently claimed by first accused as belonging to him. On the back seat of the car was found a bag containing documents which purported to be a bank account in the name of the first accused, and other documents also belonging to him.

## Moscow-Peking Railway

London, Dec. 28. A regular direct railway service between Moscow and Peking will begin in January, Moscow Radio said today.

The first train to make the 3,000-mile journey — air conditioned coaches and equipped with vacuum cleaners — is expected to leave for Moscow station. Its corridors and compartments are laid with carpets. By this direct link the journey between the two capitals will be reduced from 14 to nine days.—Reuter.

## From the Files

## 100 Years Ago

A Chinese was violently assaulted, on the 9th instant, on the road between this and Shek-pai-wan, by two armed men, who broke his arm and robbed him of his money (about \$20) and clothes.

A fishing-boat just ransomed from pirates after a month's detention at Tam-koon-low, was again seized and carried off on the 11th instant, from the anchorage at Shek-pai-wan.

## BATTLE WITH PIRATES

Mr F. Williams, of H.M. Steamer Hermes, arrived in the harbour this forenoon, in a pirate junk which he had taken, having been blown out to sea fourteen days ago, and during the interim he and his boat's crew of 14 men have had little else to eat but calavases. He reports the capture or destruction of 40 pirate junks, believed to be the "patriot" fleet lately escaped from Amoy; and we are told that in pursuing the pirates, two of the Hermes' boats capsized in the surf, and as the crew landed, they were stripped of everything and carried into the interior, whence they were only liberated on payment of a heavy ransom. Lorch No. 70 was in the hands of the pirates, but was rescued by the Hermes, and had arrived at Amoy, and had had received some ill-treatment, but none of the crew were hurt. Another large pirate fleet had escaped to sea.

## LOST AT SEA

We have been disappointed in the receipt of full particulars of the loss of the 25th October, of Lieutenant John Mathews and thirteen men of the U.S.S. Plymouth, during the late visit of that vessel to the Boner Islands. Mr Mathews, we are told, had gone off on a shooting excursion on an island about five miles distant from the anchorage, but observing the Koh-i-Noor coming in, he made for her. As the weather had a very threatening appearance, he was advised to return to the Plymouth, but detached along with a heavy gale, or rather hurricane, having raged towards evening, it is believed the boat capsized, and all hands were drowned. A thorough but unsuccessful search was made by their shipmates of every cove, bay, or inlet, but there was the slightest probability of their inking refuge.

## VOLEANO REPORT

We have been favoured with the following extract of a report of Lieutenant-Commander Junius Boyle, Commanding the U.S. Store-Ship Southampton, to Commodore Perry:

"On the 25th October, near the island of Formosa, I discovered a volcano, distant from the land about 10 miles, in a violent state of eruption, throwing vast columns of vapor to a great height, resembling in appearance a similar phenomenon which I witnessed some years ago on the coast of Sicily. This however I believe to be of greater magnitude and force, although no lava was visible through the dense bank of vapor or steam which hung about it, and the depth of water is here much greater than on the Sicilian coast; hence the above conclusion. When last seen at 2 p.m., it was in a lively state of activity, and belching forth about 10 miles. Latitude about 24° N., Longitude 121° 50' E. There was no sail in sight, and I named it after John P. Kennedy, Esq., late Secretary of the Navy."

## Radio Hongkong

H.K. Time Signal and Programming Summary: 6.00, Moody with the Stars, Dorothy Kirsten and Nelson Addy with Chorus & Orchestra. 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, National Band of New Zealand. 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, Weather Report. 7.05, Time Signal. 7.10, News and News Talk. 7.15, London Radio. 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30,